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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/14/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#) [JO](#)  
SUBJECT: KING'S TOP ADVISORS AGREE PREMATURE ENGAGEMENT  
WITH NUG INAPPROPRIATE

REF: STATE 17726

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) Ambassador made reftel points separately February 11 and 12 with King Abdullah's lead advisors, Bassem Awadallah, director of the King's office, and Muhammad Dahabi, General Intelligence Director. Both agreed a wait-and-see approach to the expected National Unity Government was appropriate, and that Jordan would maintain a public posture that delayed substantive comment until the makeup of a new government becomes clear. They expected PM Bakhit and FM Khatib to argue in GOJ councils for the need to receive Hamas ministers in Amman, in response to public opinion. However, Dahabi and Awadallah agreed such a step would be unwise at this point. Ambassador will follow up with King Abdullah at the first opportunity.

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HALE